United Nations A/AC.278/2011/2

General Assembly

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Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Organizational session
15 February 2011

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on its organizational session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters on 15 February 2011 (1st meeting). The session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

2. Statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations. A list of participants is available from http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml.

C. Election of the Bureau

4. Pursuant to rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Working Group, at its 1st meeting, on 15 February, elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Mr. Jorge Argüello (Argentina)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Leo Faber (Luxembourg)
Ms. Alya Ahmed S. Al-Thani (Qatar)

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D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing adopted the provisional agenda for its organizational session, as contained in document A/AC.278/2011/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Calendar and programme of work of the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
4. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
5. Provisional agenda for the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
6. Adoption of the report on the organizational session.

E. Calendar and programme of work of the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

6. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February, the Open-ended Working Group adopted the dates for its working sessions as follows:

First working session: 18-21 April 2011

Second working session: 1-5 August 2011

7. At the same meeting, the Working Group approved its proposed organization of work as set out in an informal paper issued in English only.

F. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

8. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February, the Open-ended Working Group adopted a draft decision entitled "Modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing", which read:

> "the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010, invited the contributions of relevant non-governmental organizations to the work of the Working Group, as appropriate, decides:
>
> (a) To invite relevant intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in its work;
>
> (b) That accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing shall be granted to all relevant non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(c) That other relevant non-governmental organizations, not falling within the above categories, may apply to the Secretariat for such accreditation, and that their applications should contain all the information on the competence of the organization and the relevance of its activities to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, as specified in paragraph 44 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and in respect of those applications, also decides that:

(i) The Secretariat shall circulate to all States members of the Open-ended Working Group a list of new applications for accreditation received from non-governmental organizations no less than four weeks prior to each session of the Working Group, on a non-objection basis, except for the first session of the Working Group, when circulation of the list will take place no later than two weeks prior to the session;

(ii) The Open-ended Working Group, at the beginning of each of its sessions, shall consider and take decisions on new applications against which a State member of the Working Group has raised an objection;

(d) To keep in mind the principle of equitable geographical participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

(e) That the arrangements outlined above shall in no way create a precedent for other open-ended working groups of the General Assembly."

G. Provisional agenda for the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

9. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing approved the provisional agenda for its working sessions, as contained in document A/AC.278/2011/L.1.

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
4. Existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

H. Adoption of the report on the organizational session

10. At its 1st meeting, on 15 February, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing adopted the draft report on its organizational session, as contained in document A/AC.278/2011/L.2, and entrusted the Chair and the Bureau with its completion in collaboration with the Secretariat.

I. Documentation

11. The list of documents before the Working Group at its organizational session is available from http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml.

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General Assembly

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Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
First and second working sessions
18-21 April and 1-5 August 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
4. Existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report

Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that the Working Group shall elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur to serve on the Bureau. The three Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. Elections will be from the regional groups, excluding that to which the Chair belongs.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rules 21 and 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing is expected to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its session.

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The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010, which established the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

3. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The General Assembly, in paragraph 30 of its resolution 65/182, invited the contributions of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to the work of the Working Group. In that regard, the Working Group adopted the modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations in its work at its organizational session, held on 15 February 2011.[1]

4. Existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level

In paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182, the General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures.

[1] For the modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Working Group, see A/AC.278/2011/2.